

# Together With **TENNESSEE TOSHA**



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## New Standard Issued, TOSHA Will Adopt

OSHA has published a final rule on Cranes and Derricks in Construction. The rule becomes effective 90 days after August 9, 2010, the date the final rule was published in the Federal Register. That makes the effective date November 8, 2010, although certain provisions have effective dates ranging from 1 to 4 years in the future. The new effective date is a significant improvement. Many have felt the new updated standard on crane safety was overdue and indeed the Advisory Committee on Construction Safety and Health (ACCSH) worked with OSHA for more than 10 years to get an updated regulation. The significant number of fatalities associated with the use of cranes and derricks in construction and the considerable technological advances in equipment since the publication of the old rule, issued in 1971, made this rulemaking necessary.



This new standard addresses key hazards related to cranes and derricks on construction worksites, including the four main causes of worker death and injury: electrocution, crushed by parts of the equipment, struck-by the equipment/load, and falls.

### Responsibility, Authority, and Accountability Safety Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) Requirements

The phrase "everyone is responsible for safety" is catchy and works well in advanced safety cultures; however, if everyone is responsible for safety then it is possible no one is specifically responsible. Claims by very small owners that they have total responsibility for all or most of the safety and health tasks in their small organizations may be accepted. Although such a one-person safety and health system may be workable in rare instances, more often these situations merely reflect the reluctance or inability of the employer to delegate.

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### Significant requirements in this new rule include:

- a pre-erection inspection of tower crane parts;
- use of synthetic slings in accordance with the manufacturer's instructions during assembly/disassembly work;
- assessment of ground conditions;
- qualification or certification of crane operators;
- procedures for working in the vicinity of power lines.

A copy of the regulatory text is available at:  
<http://www.osha.gov/doc/cranesreg.pdf>

## TOSHA Consultation: Help with I2P2

OSHA has historically stated that "safety and health is good business" and there have been some past examples of this in areas such as VPP, partnerships and training and outreach. However, recent efforts by the agency show an interest in the importance of overall safety and health management systems (programs). Two major changes have come to light: one of these is already in effect and a second is in the works, and both will potentially impact all business nationwide.

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Together with TOSHA is the  
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## Responsibility, Authority, and Accountability

### Safety Health Achievement Recognition Program (SHARP) Requirements

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Safety responsibilities should be clearly assigned. For example, has the responsibility for regularly scheduled safety and health self-inspections, performing JHAs (job hazard analyses), and accident investigations been assigned? Who is assigned responsibility for training employees, supervisors, and managers? It is particularly important to examine the assignment of responsibilities for actions set forth in the organization's safety plan, because these tasks have direct bearing on achievement of current safety and health objectives.

Persons with specific responsibilities must have the necessary authority to perform the assigned task. At least three types of authority are necessary for a responsible person to perform assigned safety and health tasks effectively. These are (1) authority over the work; (2) authority over needed resources and (3) authority over the actions of subordinates. Authority over the work means that the responsible person can make and implement operational decisions relative to the assigned task, including work stoppage if necessary. Authority over resources means that the responsible person identifies task-related resource needs and obtains or specifies and requisitions those resources. Resource needs may involve physical resources such as supplies or equipment as well as service resources such as training, repairs, maintenance, and housekeeping. Authority over subordinates means that the responsible person is able to make and enforce task-related assignments to others.

Effective monitoring of performance of assigned safety and health tasks is the third necessity in assigning responsibilities. There is a time-tested management adage that \$what gets monitored is what gets done.\$At the time any safety or health task is assigned, both the supervisor and the employee need to have a clear and consistent mutual understanding of how and when performance of the assignment will be measured.

Assigning specific responsibilities to all managers, supervisors, and employees; providing them with the authority to carry out those responsibilities; and ensuring they are accountable puts a company on the road to effective safety and health systems.

**SHARP**  
TENNESSEE

## TOSHA Consultation: Help with I2P2 (continued from page one)

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One area is a change in the VQU C'Ego rikepeg'Field Operations Manual and the calculation of "good faith" reductions of penalties (read: dollar amount) of a citation. In many cases, the more elements of an effective safety and health program that are in place, the lower the fines could be a citation from a compliance inspection.

The second is a new initiative called "I2P2" or Injury and Illness Prevention Plans for those normal folks outside of OSHA who don't speak acronym as a second language.

This would be a mandate for employers to establish workplace safety and health programs. OSHA is currently looking at examples from within and outside as to what elements would be required, what would a model plan look like, etc.

Ok, so how does the TOSHA Consultative Services section fit into these two enforcement changes? For over twenty years, consultative services has worked with employers in developing safety and health programs using examples, tools and training. Historically there have been success stories of Tennessee businesses going from no formal program to implementing a program...and a resulting reduction in injury and illness rates...and tangible cost (dollar amount) reduction.

So if you wish to improve your safety and health program, get "ahead of the game" on a required safety and health program, contact the TOSHA Consultative Services section at (800) 325-9901 for information on free confidential services to improve your site's overall safety and health.

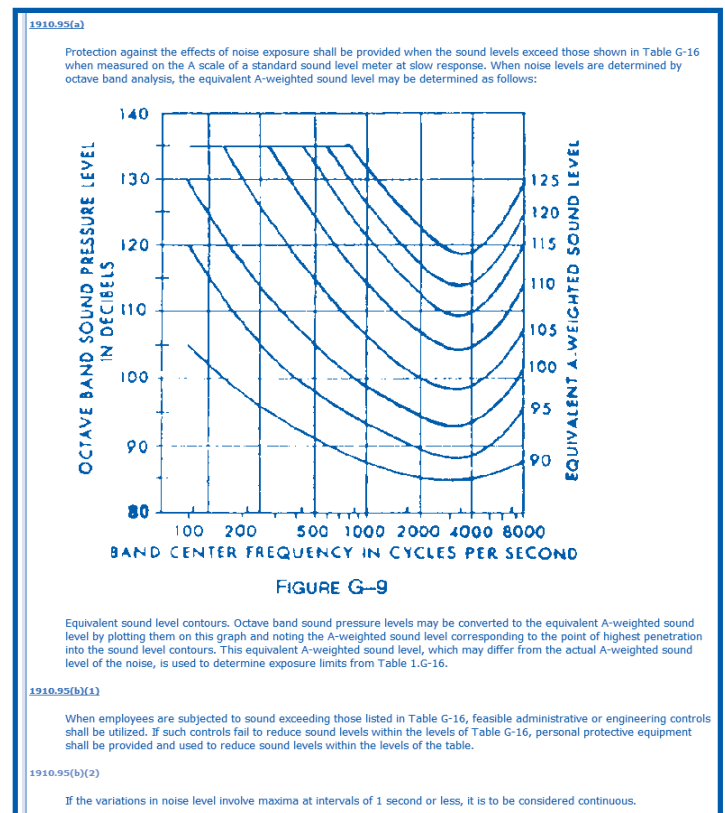
## TOSHA TIPS

**Condition:** A copy of the TOSHA (OSHA) occupational noise standard was not posted in the workplace.

**Potential Effects:** Noise above the action level may cause employees to suffer temporary hearing threshold shifts. This reduction in hearing can interfere with communication and may result in higher stress and accident rates. Chronic exposure to noise above the action level will produce permanent hearing loss in five to ten percent of those exposed. Understanding the requirements of the noise standard can help employees prevent overexposure at home as well as on the job.

**Standard:** 29 CFR 1910.95(l)(1)

**Correction/Prevention:** Post a copy of the noise standard on a bulletin board or other accessible location in the workplace. It should be available to any employee who wants to see it. A copy of the standard may help employees learn to protect themselves from noise. This and similar OSHA standards were written to let employees know of employer obligations to reduce hazards and to help them determine whether the employer's methods are correct.



1910.95 Occupational Noise Exposure - General Industry Standard  
can be found at [www.osha.gov](http://www.osha.gov)

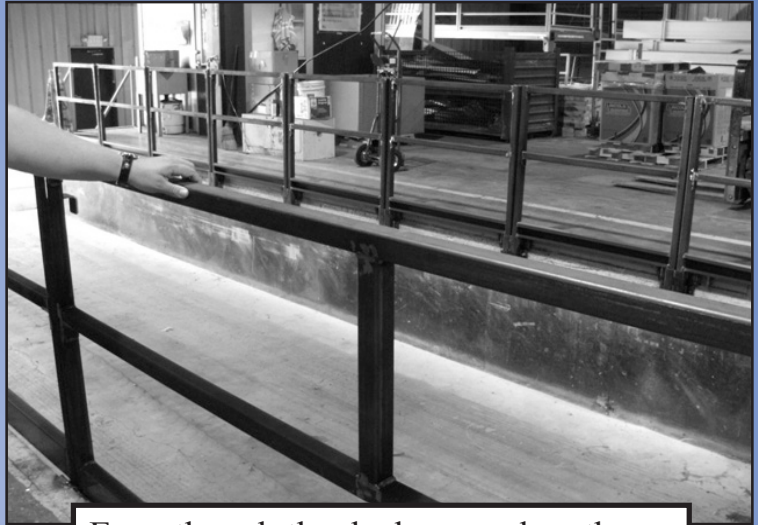
# LEARN & LIVE

## Consultation Services On-site Problem Solver

A custom engineered metal building manufacturer located in Portland, Tennessee entered the TOSHA SHARP (Safety and Health Achievement and Recognition Program) program in early 2010. During the initial SHARP inspection a hazard was identified in and around the shipping and receiving docks. A floor hole into which a person could accidentally walk was not guarded by a standard railing with standard toe-boards on all exposed sides or by a floor-hole cover of standard strength and construction.

Even though the docks were less than a four-foot drop an employee actually stepped off and fell while loading which resulted in a serious recordable incident with days away from work.

Employees discussed methods of abatement, designed and constructed a movable metal guarding system where each gated section could be removed while loading while others remained to protect the employees from a fall.



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